MARVEL

658

50 YEARS OF Fantastic Four

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

SLOTT
PULIDO
VICENTE
RODRIGUEZ

PLUS:SPIDEY MEETS GHOST RIDER
BY WILLIAMS AND GARBETT

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THE HUMAN TORCH HAS DIED.
HE ASKED SPIDER-MAN TO TAKE HIS PLACE.
BUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR IS NO MORE.
WELCOME TO TOMORROW.
WELCOME TO THE FUTURE FOUNDATION.

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Tribeca.
PETER PARKER'S APARTMENT.
ARE YOU *SURE* ABOUT THIS? I MEAN, NO PRESSURE. I'M OKAY WITH TAKING THINGS SLOW.
PETER, I DON'T THINK ANYONE CAN ACCUSE US OF GOING FAST.
YOU SURE?
SUPER SURE.
NICE PAJAMAS.
THANKS. UM...ARE *YOU* SURE?
WE'RE SURE SAYING *SURE* A LOT.
I KNOW. IT'S LIKE IT'S NOT EVEN A WORD ANYMORE. JUST SOME WEIRD SOUND. SURE. SURE. SURE.
SHHH... CARLIE COOPER. I. AM. SURE. I'M READY FOR THIS. FOR YOU.
REALLY?
YEAH. GOOD JOB. MY OWN PLACE. SWEETEST GIRL IN THE WORLD. I'M FEELING VERY ADULT-LIKE.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, ALL MY STARS ARE PROPERLY--
OH BOY!

THE FF FLARE SIGNAL!

NOT THE FLAMING "4" ONE, THEIR NEW ONE...

...'CAUSE WE'RE NOT CALLED THE FANTASTIC FOUR ANYMORE.

AND I DEFINITELY MEAN "WE," 'CAUSE I'M PART OF THE TEAM NOW...

...AND THEY *NEED* ME. BUT HOW CAN I GO AFTER I TOLD CARLIE--

BRR

RRT BRRRT

COOPER HERE.

PETE, I AM *SO* SORRY! THAT WAS CAPTAIN WATANABE. SHE NEEDS ME ON FORENSICS.

THERE'S A BIG SUPER HERO CRIME SCENE ACROSS TOWN.

AT THIS HOUR? WHAT'RE THE ODDS?

THAT WAS CONVENIENT! THIS KEEPS UP, I'LL HAVE TO CHANGE THE MEANING OF "*PARKER LUCK.*"

PETE? YOU'RE NOT UPSET, ARE YOU?

DON'T WORRY, HONEY. I CAN ALWAYS GO BACK TO THE LAB. GET SOME WORK DONE.

REALLY? IT'S PRETTY LATE.

ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF WORKING FOR *HORIZON*: OPEN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY.

AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, EVER SINCE I STARTED DATING A C.S.I. GIRL...IT'S WHERE I KEEP ALL OF MY SPIDEY GEAR!

TOMORROW?

YOU BET.

TAXI!

FOURTEEN MINUTES! C'MON! STILL HAVE TO GET THROUGH SECURITY *AND* INTO THE VAULT IN MY LAB.

WONDER IF MR. FANTASTIC WILL ACCEPT A NOTE FROM MY BOSS FOR WHY I'M LATE?

ZONIROI

SERIOUSLY, MAX. THIS IS SO NOT COOL.

IF PARKER THINKS HE CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS--

THERE'S THE CREEP.

PETER. PERFECT TIMING. WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU.

HEY, MR. MODELL. WHAT'S UP?

GRR! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

IT'S YOUR LAST INVENTION FOR HORIZON, PETER. THE SOUND REDUCTION HEADPHONES.

YOUR COLLEAGUES MAKE A CASE THAT YOUR PROJECT BORROWS HEAVILY...

...FROM *GRADY'S* TECH FOR BENDING LIGHT AND *SAJANI'S* EXPERIMENTS WITH COUNTER-VIBRATIONS.

Y'KNOW... I *DID* SEE THEIR WORK IN PROGRESS.

I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.

FAIR'S FAIR. WHY DON'T WE ALL *SHARE* CREDIT FOR IT?

IT'S A START.

WE ALL GOOD? FANTASTIC! GOTTA GO!

PETER PARKER. ACCESS GRANTED.

GREAT. NOW I'LL HAVE TO COME UP WITH A *NEW* SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH BY NEXT QUARTER.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR THAT?

A SPIDEY ADVENTURE!

AND WITH THE FF NO LESS. THAT'S PRACTICALLY GOT SCIENCE WRITTEN ALL OVER IT!

The Baxter Building.
HOME TO THE FF, A.K.A. THE FUTURE FOUNDATION.
I WONDER...
...WHAT ON EARTH COULD BE KEEPING THE BOY?
FATHER, HE'S ALSO AN AVENGER. HIS TIME'S STRETCHED PRETTY THIN.
YEAH? I'M AN AVENGER TOO, VALERIA. AND YOU DON'T SEE ME GOLDBRICKIN'.
ALEX, WHILE WE'RE OUT, YOU AND DRAGON MAN ARE IN CHARGE.
I WANT EVERYONE IN BED AT A DECENT HOUR.
YES, MRS. RICHARDS.
DID YOU HEAR THAT, CHILDREN?
PFT. I THINK I CAN MONITOR MY OWN R.E.M. AND N.R.E.M. CYCLES. THANK YOU.
WAIT...
FRANKLIN?
I SEE HIM!
HEY, GUYS! SORRY I'M LATE. HAD TO STOP OFF FOR A CHANGE A' CLOTHES.

TA-DA!

SO? AM I READY TO JOIN THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER HERO TEAM OR WHAT?!

PETER PARKER: THE Fantastic SPIDER-MAN

OF ALL THE INSENSITIVE--

YEAH! OUT WITH IT, WEBS! WHATTYA DOIN' IN THAT *COCKAMAMIE* GETUP?!

WHAT? THIS? I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE ON THIS TEAM.

I HAD MY TAILOR, LEO, MAKE THIS UP SPECIAL. IT'S COOL, RIGHT?

NO! TAKE IT OFF.

THERE AIN'T NO FANTASTIC *FOUR* NO MORE.

WE RETIRED THE NUMBER AN' THE COLORS OUTTA *RESPECT* FOR JOHNNY AND WHAT HE DONE!

BUT YOU WANNA BE COVERED IN *BLACK N' BLUE?* I CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN!

WHAT BEN AND SUE ARE TRYING TO SAY, SON...

...IS THAT WE'RE *HONORED* TO HAVE YOU ON OUR *TEAM* AND IN OUR *FAMILY.*

WE JUST HOPE THAT YOU'RE PROUD TO BE PART OF THE *FUTURE FOUNDATION* AS WELL.

HERE. YOU LEFT YOUR UNIFORM LAST TIME.

OY. WITH THE GUILT. *FINE!*

WANNA BE IN THE FANTASTIC FOUR, SPIDEY? SURE.

WHAT? OH, WE'RE THE FUTURE FOUNDATION NOW.

BAIT N' SWITCH IF YOU ASK ME. RAZZIN' FRAZZIN'...

C'MON!

I LOOK LIKE *ANTI-VENOM!* PEOPLE ARE GOING TO THINK I'M ONE OF THE BAD GUYS!

OH, NO THEY WON'T. GET OVER IT.

SUE! HOW CAN YOU *NOT* SEE THIS?

WHITE SUIT. BLACK SPIDER. *ANTI-VENOM!*

BENTLEY, I AM CONFUSED. ACCORDING TO FRANKLIN THIS SPIDER-MAN IS AN ADULT. YET HE BEHAVES LIKE AN INFANT.

CORRECT. HE'S A BIG BABY.

ALL RIGHT. I LOVE IT. BEST SUIT EVER.

CAN WE GO NOW?

BYE!

SO? WHAT'S THE BIG MISSION?

WE'VE DETECTED THREE RIFTS IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM.

IN THE MICROVERSE, THE DISTANT FUTURE, AND ONE RIGHT HERE ON EARTH.

IF WE DON'T SEAL ALL THREE, THERE'S A DANGER REALITY COULD COLLAPSE IN ON ITSELF.

WOW. NEVER ANYTHING SMALL WITH YOU GUYS, IS IT?

WELL? WHERE TO FIRST? LATVERIA? WAKANDA? OOH-- ATLANTIS?

FRANCE.

FRANCE?!

Paris.

J'NE SAIS WHOA!

REED, THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM!

NO, DARLING. YOU'RE DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB. KEEP PUSHING THEM BACK THROUGH WITH YOUR FORCE FIELDS...

...AND I'LL HAVE THESE PORTALS CLOSED IN NO TIME.

GEEZ, ARKON! WAY TA GO DUMPIN' ALL THESE CRITTERS ON *OUR* DOORSTEP!

WHAT? THIS HOW YOU DO PEST CONTROL ON YER WORLD?

SILENCE, *THING!* THOUGH I WOULD BE GLAD TO BE RID OF THESE BEASTS, THEY ARE *MY* RESPONSIBILITY!

AND I SHALL DO *ALL* IN MY POWER TO FORCE THEM *BACK* INTO MY REALM WHERE THEY BELONG!

Later...

THANKS, ARKON. WE'LL SHUT THIS WINDOW DOWN ONCE YOU AND YOUR MEN ARE SAFELY HOME.

YOU FOUGHT WELL, MR. FANTASTIC. KNOW THIS...

...YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN POLEMACHUS.

=MUNCH= AFTER-BATTLE PASTRIES? NICE. THIS A REGULAR THING?

PART OF THE PERKS OF BEING ON THE FF.

WHILE REED DEALS WITH THE CLEANUP AND TECHNICAL DETAILS, THE REST OF US GET TO SOAK IN THE LOCAL COLOR.

WHOOPS.

CHOCOLATE. THAT'LL LEAVE A MARK.

NOPE. UNSTABLE MOLECULES. IMPOSSIBLE TO GET DIRTY.

YOU'LL NEVER NEED ANOTHER SUIT AGAIN.

GREAT.

ENOUGH ABOUT THE DANG SUIT. AIN'T YA GOT NUTHIN' BETTER TO--

HEY, WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

HA HA

A *MIME*?! WHAT'RE YOU--?

SO I'M A BIG *GORILLA*, HUH?!

OH NO...

BEN, DON'T--

AW, NUTS TO THIS! AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE GONE THROUGH...

SOMETIMES I FERGET THAT EVERYBODY SEES ME AS A MONSTER.

YA NEED ME, I'LL BE IN THE FANTASTICAR.

<OH, DEAR GOD! IT'S CLOSING IN ON ME! HELP!>*

HE'S VERY GOOD.

BUT I THOUGHT THEY WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TALK?

*TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH YELLING. --WAQUERE

SUE?

YEAH?

JOHNNY WOULD'VE BEEN PROUD.

THANKS.

EVERYONE ABOARD. WE'VE PINPOINTED THE NEXT DIMENSIONAL INSTABILITY.

NEXT STOP, THE MICROVERSE. STRAP YOURSELVES IN, KIDS.

OH, AND SPIDER-MAN? IF YOU COULD PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE? IT CAUSES INTERFERENCE WHEN WE SHRINK OUT OF THE UNIVERSE.

SURE, BOSS. JUST GONNA TRY MY GIRLFRIEND AGAIN BEFORE WE'RE OUT OF RANGE.

HOPE SHE GETS THIS...

New York.

AHHH!

I CONFESS! I SHOT THEIR BAGMEN AND MADE A PLAY FOR THE MONEY *AND* THE DRUGS! *THERE!* NOW LOCK ME UP!

SANTOS, THINK YOU COULD--?

I GOT 'IM, CARLIE.

WHAT? I GOTTA PUT IT IN *WRITIN'*? WHATEVER! JUST GEMME OUTTA HERE...

...BEFORE *SHE* COMES BACK AN' RIPS MY *SOUL* RIGHT OUTTA MY CHEST! SAID SHE WOULD!

"SHE"? THREE GUESSES, CAP.

ONLY NEED *ONE*, MALLOY. THIS HAS *THE WRAITH* WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.

GYAH! DON'T SAY HER *NAME!* IT'S LIKE FREAKIN' CANDYMAN OR SOMETHIN'!

DEAR GOD, I'LL ROLL ON EVERYTHING YOU NEVER GOT ME FOR--JUST MOVE IT, ALL RIGHT?!

UNBELIEVABLE. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS, COOPER?

DRUG DEAL GONE BAD, CAPTAIN. BUT EVEN IF HE INHALED SOME OF THIS...

...IT WOULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR THAT MUCH PARANOIA-- OR POSSIBLE HALLUCINATIONS...

THIS, ON THE OTHER HAND...

PURPLE, CHEMICAL RESIDUE. WHERE HAVE I SEEN *YOU* BEFORE?

BZZZ BZ

SHOULD RUN THIS DOWN TO THE LAB FOR TESTS...

BZZZ BZ

COOPER? YOUR PHONE.

OH! SORRY, CAPTAIN WATANABE. ONE SEC.

BZZZ BZZZ

One New Voice Message. Peter Parker

HEY, CARLIE. THE OFFICE IS SENDING ME OUTTA TOWN ON A QUICK TRIP. Y'KNOW. BUSINESS.

SORRY! RAIN CHECK ON TOMORROW? CALL WHEN I GET BACK. LOVE YA, PE--→CLICK÷

WHAT? A BUSINESS TRIP? IN THE MIDDLE OF THE *NIGHT?*

TO *WHERE?!*

The Microverse.
ON THE SURFACE OF SUPEREGO, THE LIVING ATOM.
GOT IT! CORRECTING HER ELECTRONS' ORBIT! BUT REED...? THIS IS CRAZY!
AND I MEAN BEYOND THE FACT SHE'S A GIANT, LIVING ATOM...
...ELECTRONS DON'T HAVE PATHS LIKE THIS. IT DEFIES QUANTUM MECHANICS!
WE'RE IN THE MICROVERSE, SPIDEY. FORGET EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT CONVENTIONAL SCIENCE.
JUST TRUST MY HUSBAND. HE'LL GET US THROUGH THIS.
THANK YOU, SUSAN. OUR PATIENT'S IN TROUBLE, TEAM. SHE'S THE SOURCE OF THE DIMENSIONAL INSTABILITY.
HURRY! PLEASE! I'M BREAKING APART!
IF WE CAN'T STABILIZE HER--IF SHE SPLITS--IT COULD START AN EXPLOSION THAT'D TEAR INTO OUR UNIVERSE!
I HEAR YA, STRETCHO. WE LOUSE THIS UP...AND SHE BIG BANGS EVERYTHING WE CARE ABOUT UPSTAIRS.
YOU JUST KEEP TELLIN' ME WHERE TO PUNCH STUFF--AND I'LL PUNCH IT!

THAT SHOULD DO IT. THOUGH DON'T EVEN ASK ME WHY.

DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT, SPIDER-MAN. YOU'VE TAKEN A BIG STEP TODAY...

...INTO AREAS OF META-SCIENCE FEW MINDS CAN GRASP.

"META-SCIENCE"?

HERE WE GO.

TAKE GALACTUS FOR EXAMPLE. DO YOU THINK A COSMIC DEVOURER OF WORLDS...

...WOULD APPEAR AS A CAUCASIAN MAN IN A PURPLE HELMET AND BOOTS? THAT'S HIS META-FORM.

YOU'RE SAYING THAT'S HOW WE *PERCEIVE* IT. THAT THERE'S A GREATER SCIENTIFIC TRUTH *UNDER* THE SURFACE...

AAAND WE'VE LOST HIM. GUESS FROM NOW ON IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, BEN.

EH.

SO REED'S GOT HIMSELF A NEW PLAYMATE FOR THE BIG BRAIN STUFF. FINE BY ME.

LOOK, COSMIC BUTTERFLIES. WANNA BRING SOME BACK FER VAL AND THE--

HUNH?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT. LET'S JUST SAY MY GRIMM-SENSE IS TINGLIN'.

IT'S THE STRANGEST FEELIN'. LIKE WE WUZ BEIN' WATCHED...

THANK YOU, FF! BLESSINGS AND PROPORTIONAL MASS BE UPON YOU!

FOR SOMEONE SURROUNDED WITH NEGATIVELY CHARGED PARTICLES, SHE'S VERY UPBEAT.

COOL. WHAT'S NEXT ON OUR COSMIC ROAD TRIP?

BACK TO OUR OWN UNIVERSE, THEN A ZILLION YEARS INTA THE FUTURE.

AND THE SOONER WE'RE OUTTA HERE, THE BETTER.

TRACKING...

THIS PLACE ALWAYS GIVES ME THE CREEPS.

CROSSING THE DIMENSIONAL THRESHOLD... *NOW!*

THE EXPANSION FREQUENCY! *I HAVE IT!*

THE KEY WHICH WILL ALLOW ME INGRESS INTO THE HEAVENS ABOVE!

HA HA! SOON! A WHOLE WORLD FOR THE *PSYCHO-MAN* TO TORMENT!

OH, THANK YOU, RICHARDS! YOU'VE GIVEN ME QUITE THE GIFT. AN ENTIRE DIMENSION AS MY OWN PERSONAL PLAYGROUND!

The Baxter Building.
WELL PAST BEDTIME.
VALERIA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CHILDREN THIS IS MOST UNACCEPTABLE. TO BED POST HASTE!
DO NOT PROVOKE ME INTO USING MY FLAME BREATH. I AM MOST SERIOUS.
ARTIE, C'MON. YOU'RE MAKING ME LOOK BAD HERE.
YEE-HAH!
THOSE ARE VERY COMPLEX CALCULATIONS.
I'M TRIANGULATING THE THREE DIFFERENT DIMENSIONAL ANOMALIES THE TEAM'S BEEN TRACKING DOWN.
ibbean
Atla
INTERESTING.
A LOCATION IN THE CARIBBEAN. WHY DOES THAT LOOK FAMILIAR?
HMM. PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY. DON'T EVEN HAVE TO LOOK IT UP.
BUT HERE, FOR *YOUR* BENEFIT.
FROM THE FANTASTIC FOUR CASE FILES. THAT SPOT IS THE LOCATION...
...WHERE DOCTOR DOOM SENT UNCLE BEN, UNCLE JOHNNY, AND FATHER...
...ON THEIR FIRST EVER TRIP THROUGH *TIME*.

The Year 3,141,592,653.

ALONG EARTH'S ORBIT.

GUYS? THINK I FOUND YOUR DIMENSIONAL RIFT.

AGREED. HM. AND IT APPEARS TO BE MAN-MADE.

REED, THEY'RE BAXTER BUILDINGS. THAT'S MADE OUT OF A DOZEN BAXTER BUILDINGS.

WELL, WHATEVER IT IS, HOLD ON! DON'T KNOW IF I'M FLYIN' INTO IT OR OUT OF IT!

GREETINGS, FF. IT'S NOTED IN YOUR HISTORICAL RECORDS THAT YOU'D BE VISITING US TODAY.

WELCOME TO THE BAXTER/RETXAB. THE FIRST EVER PALINDROMICAL ARCHITECTURE...

...A STRUCTURE EXTENDING BACKWARD AND FORWARD INTO THE FABRIC OF REALITY...

...AND HEADQUARTERS TO THE FUTURE-FUTURE FOUNDATION!

THIS IS MEGA-STORM, SUPREMO, XANDAR, YANCY...

...AND I'M THEIR LEADER, CAPTAIN WAKANDA. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE. WE COULD USE YOUR HELP.

OF COURSE, WE'LL DO WHATEVER WE CAN.

WHICH IS *WHAT* EXACTLY? LOOK AT THIS. YOU'RE FUTURE-FUTURE GUYS. WE'RE JUST PRESENT-PRESENT PEOPLE.

EXACTLY.

THE DIMENSIONAL CIRCUITS IN OUR BASE ARE FAILING, FOLDING IN ON THEMSELVES. AND WE CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY.

IT'S THE TECHNOLOGY. IT'S SO ANCIENT, ITS SECRETS HAVE BEEN LOST TO TIME.

WHOA! BUT IT'S STILL LIGHT YEARS AHEAD OF US.

WAIT. THIS LOOKS FAMILIAR.

IT'S A HIGHLY ADVANCED VERSION OF HANK PYM'S DIMENSIONAL WAVE INDUCER.

NOT BAD. JUST LOOKING AT THIS STUFF IS GIVING ME ALL KINDS OF IDEAS FOR MY JOB BACK HOME--

FOR HORIZON LABS?

UM. YEAH.

PETER, THIS IS *FUTURE* TECHNOLOGY! YOU *CAN NOT* USE IT FOR INSPIRATION IN THE *PRESENT*.

THAT GOES FOR *ANYTHING* YOU SEE OFFWORLD. EARTH SCIENCE HAS TO PROGRESS AT ITS *OWN* PACE. DO I HAVE YOUR WORD?

ALL RIGHT! I PROMISE! GEEZ.

SO NOW NONE OF MY FF ADVENTURES CAN HELP ME OUT AT WORK?

JUST WHAT I NEED. TIME AWAY FROM THE LAB...

"...AND NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT."

HORIZON

OH! HELLO, CARLIE. WHAT BRINGS YOU AROUND? PETER ISN'T IN TODAY.

I KNOW, FLO. I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD DO ME A FAVOR.

I HAD TO RUN OUT ON HIM LAST NIGHT. SO TO MAKE UP FOR IT, I BAKED HIS FAVORITE: *SNICKERDOODLES*.

THINK YOU COULD SHIP 'EM TO WHEREVER HORIZON SENT PETE ON HIS BUSINESS TRIP?

BELLE

WHAT? I'M SORRY, DEAR, BUT...

"...WE HAVEN'T SENT PETER ANYWHERE. ARE YOU SURE YOU HEARD HIM RIGHT?"

YEAH. I'M *SURE*.

To Be Continued...

MARVEL TEAM-UP FEATURING:

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

GHOST RIDER

CAN'T GET THE SERVICE

ROB WILLIAMS	LEE GARBETT	ALEJANDRO SICAT	FABIO D'AURIA	VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA	ELLIE PYLE	STEPHEN WACKER	AXEL ALONSO	JOE QUESADA	DAN BUCKLEY	ALAN FINE
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DE LA TORRE AND HOLLINGSWORTH - COVER

Manhattan.
APPROACHING THE WITCHING HOUR.
A TIME FOR DEBAUCHERY, HEDONISM, LOST SOULS...
...AND THOSE LACKING THE TRAIN FARE BACK TO QUEENS.
LOOKING GOOD, MANHATTAN.
YOU KNOW, THERE'S VERY LITTLE THAT COULD BUM ME OUT TONIGHT.
AAAAAND CUE MAJOR SUPER-VILLAIN ATTACK, MYRIAD CLONES OF ME APPEARING OR JONAH REVEALING HIMSELF TO BE MY *SECRET FATHER.*
BRRRRRR. OK, NOW I'M BUMMED OUT.
AND LO! JUST LIKE THAT. PEOPLE RUNNING, SCREAMING AND TERRIFIED FROM AN UPTOWN BAR! THIS CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING...
...RUSSELL CROWE IS IN TOWN!
"OR..."
WHA... WHAT DO YOU WA... WANT?
HUMAN BLOOD.
HUH?

KIDDING.

WHISKEY. NEAT.

NOW!

AH! YES... YESSIR.

MAN, I ASK YOU...

WHAT'S AN ORDINARY JOE GOT TO DO TO GET A DRINK 'ROUND HERE?

HEY, IT'S DON DRAPER FROM *MAD MEN!*

IF DON DRAPER FROM MAD MEN'S HEAD WAS ON FIRE.

YOU WANT TO JOIN ME FOR A QUIET ONE, KID? I'M BUYING.

MOI?

SURE. YOU'RE A SPIDER-MAN, I'M A GHOST RIDER. KINDA FITS. 'SIDES...

I'M TIRED OF DRINKING ALONE...

OKAY THEN. MILK. NEAT.

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON DRIVING AFTER THAT.

I'M A WALKING, BURNING SKELETON AND A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

A *RESPONSIBLE* WALKING, BURNING SKELETON AND SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE I HOPE.

IT DON'T HAVE NO REAL EFFECT ON ME LIKE THIS.

WHY DRINK IT, THEN?

GOOD POINT.

NOW I CAN GET PROPERLY WASTED.

MIND IF I ASK WHY?

I'M CELEBRATING. LET'S JUST SAY THAT, AFTER YEARS OF BEING A PUPPET TO VARIOUS MASTERS, I'M FINALLY FREE.

LET ME ASK YOU SOME SOMETHING, MISTER AVENGER.

IF YOU COULD GET IT BACK...A NORMAL LIFE WITH NONE OF THE HURT THAT COMES WITH LIVING LIKE THIS...

...WOULD YOU?

UH...

NOW I JUST GOT TO FIGURE WHAT TO DO NEXT.

AND FIND A WAY TO RID MYSELF OF THE GHOST RIDER FOREVER.

GO BACK TO JUST BEING PLAIN OLD JOHNNY BLAZE.

YOUR BIKE SCREAMS.

NICE SAVE.

YOUR BIKE STRUGGLES AND SUFFERS IN AGE. HE HAS COME FROM HELL TO RENEW IT.

RENEW IT IN SPEWING BLOOD AND PAIN AND SHATTERED BONE AND SIN.

HE HAS COME FOR YOUR BIKE.

THE SERVICER IS HERE!

NO THANKS, WE'RE WITH TRIPLE A.

BETTER CHECK.

YOU DID LOCK IT UP, RIGHT? I MEAN THIS *IS* MANHATTAN WE'RE TALKING...

...ABOUT.

WE'RE...

...WE'RE WITH TRIPLE A.

YOU ALREADY SAID THAT.

I NEVER FORGET COMEDY'S RULE OF "THREES."

THE MACHINE HAS NOT BEEN USED FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE.

GETTING GIRLS?

CUTTING THE COMMUTE TIME?

FONZIE IMPRESSIONS?

THE COLLECTION OF SOULS FOR HELL.

OH. THAT.

HE IS DISPLEASED.

AND HE SHALL RECTIFY THIS MATTER.

THE HELLISH TRANSPORT SHALL FEAST ON MORTAL PAIN AGAIN, AS INTENDED.

HEY!!

DUDE, EVEN A GLEEK LIKE ME KNOWS YOU *NEVER* TOUCH ANOTHER GUY'S BIKE.

HANDS OFF MY @#$% RIDE!

IT'S LARGELY FROWNED UPON IN MACHO SOCIETY. MUCH LIKE DRESSING UP AS *LIZA MINNELLI* AT A GIANTS GAME...

...WHICH I DISCOVERED THE HARD WAY.

AH!!!

WHAM

CAN'T LEAVE ME ALONE, CAN YA?

JUST ONE MORE SERVANT FROM HELL OR HEAVEN, WANTS TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

WHO I SHOULD BE.

WELL, I'M DONE WITH THAT, Y'UNDERSTAND ME, YOU MONOLITHIC SUMBITCH?

GO BACK TO HELL!!

UH-OH.

AHHH!

THLOKKK!

AH... SPIDER-MAN! TAKE... ...TAKE THE BIKE... GO...

YOU DON'T... ...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT... ...IT CAN... ...DO.

ALRIGHTY THEN, GHOST RIDER'S GONE...

...LEAVING ME WITH A BIKE THAT, IF EBULLIENT EDDIE HERE GETS HIS HANDS ON IT, WILL "*FEAST ON THE MORTAL PAIN OF THE MASSED SOULS ON THIS ISLAND.*"

SEEMS IT'S TIME FOR THAT MUCH LOVED SPIDEY CREDO...

WITH GREAT HORSEPOWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILI--

--YAAAAHHHH!!!

Next: MOTOR MADNESS!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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Once again, Ellie and I have spent this evening combing the Spidey mailbag and searching for the few who shall be chosen for the place of honor among all letter writers of yesterday and today. Could the fates have smiled on YOU?

Probably not…but let's all admire these lucky ne'er-do-wells with too much time on their hands:

Greetings Spidey office!

I wanted to congratulate you all on the awesome first couple of issues of *Big Time*. I've read Spidey forever, and this new run has been a blast and I'm happy to be along for the ride.

However, I'm concerned for Jay Jameson Sr. The new Scorpion and the Slayers look pretty tough. It seems pretty harsh for May to have to deal with another dead husband. I just trust that Mr. Slott has May's best interests at heart.

Also, I'm happy that Ben Reilly is the new Venom. (Probably wouldn't hurt to spread that rumor around the offices. Maybe it'll come true.)

Mike Burns
Via e-mail

Dear Spider-People,

1. *Big Time* is great so far. I hope it will be the status quo for some time to come. Peter's job arrangement is ideal.

2. ASM #652 confirmed what I thought when I first saw the cover of "The Many Loves of the Amazing Spider-Man" – Carlie Cooper is, by far, the sexiest girlfriend Peter Parker has had. Ever.

3. Seeing the ad for the upcoming #654.1 made me think about your numbering system. There are lots of new stories set in old continuity. Why not let the number system indicate that? I'd love to read ASM 172.5. You know, the untold story set between Spidey's encounters with Rocket Racer and Molten Man.

4. I love all your variant covers, despite the huge expense of those 1:100 issues. It's the thrill of the hunt, you see. So I poured over the cover gallery in #647. I painstakingly sought them all out. I was complete – or I *thought* I was. What on Earth is that black cover variant of ASM #573 in the center of the bottom row on the gallery's first page? I've never seen that anywhere and Internet searches turn up nothing. Be honest, you've made that one up, haven't you? You're just trying to drive us completists crazy!

SD Mumford
Via e-mail

1-You got it. Horizon's got some big plans on the…umm…metaphorical line where Earth and sky meet.

2-You may be right, but here's one thing I learned in college…never rank women for any reason! Seriously. That's my relationship advice to all of you.

3-That's a pretty clever idea.

4-Good eye. That was a mock-up for a cover we were going to run when TV personality – and noted bear non-enthusiast – Stephen Colbert appeared in the book. We ended up not using it, but (former Spidey assistant editor) Tom Brennan and I thought it was a fun Easter egg to throw in the cover gallery since we already had it composited.

(Also hidden in the ASM #647 cover gallery: a robot cat, Waldo, and my dignity.)

Dear Dan, Steve, Ellie, & crew,

I really enjoyed *Amazing* #652 for a variety of reasons.

To begin with, the story was top-notch. Dan, I think you're up there with Stan, Gerry Conway (*Amazing* #121 & #122, the deaths of Gwen & Green Goblin, is still probably my favorite comic story ever), Roger Stern, Peter David and Mark Waid. These are my personal favorite Spidey scribes.

Why, you might ask? Well, there was some great humor (I loved Peter's skating while Mary Jane watched. A great scene.)

I loved the old cast members like Flash, Betty, Jonah and John Jameson, Glory Grant and even Carlie, who I'm beginning to warm to.

I'm also glad someone has at last taken Jonah to task for his crimes of creating the Scorpion and meddling with the Spider-Slayers. This is an issue he has gotten away with for far too long.

I really enjoyed the tribute to *Amazing Spider-Man* #1 with Spidey again having to save John from a potential space disaster. I also caught the Andru Base reference. (Rest in peace, Ross. You did good.)

Dan, I hope you'll continue to use probably the richest cast of supporting characters in all of comics. Some of them have been disregarded for too long (the Stacy family, Arthur, Jill and Paul, for instance). Hey, you could even resolve the Gwen clone thing (like why she didn't disintegrate like the others. Hey, perhaps she isn't a...nah!) which has been left hanging for, what, thirty years?

Anyway, I like the way this mag is shaping up. It's got me excited again and looking forward to the next ish. Thanks, folks.

Steve Laming
Lancashire, UK

I have been collecting comics for over a year now and to this day I have not been disappointed with a single issue of *The Amazing Spider-Man.*

When *Big Time* started, I was pumped; new suit, having the Hobgoblin(s) back, a new girl for Peter, and a change of heart for the Black Cat (kinda).

It all seemed like too much, but it's better than expected. I have to say, though, giving Peter his dream job working as a scientist makes me wish there was just a comic about what he does in Horizon Labs.

I am guessing we will find out who the new Venom is before this is read, but my guess would be Flash Thompson, seeing as it looks like Venom is working for the government. It seems like he would be the best choice, with his military background and all.

Keep up the good work,
Mackenzy Peters
Calgary, Alberta

You were spot on about the new Venom, Mackenzy. I hope you've been checking out the new book as well by Rick Remender and Tony Moore. It's been flying off the shelves and already gone for a 2nd printing. There are definitely big things coming Venom-related this summer, so if you – by some odd chance – HAVEN'T read it yet, I command you.

Hi, Spidey Crew

I teach in the Accounting Department of a college in the State University of New York system (academically a very good school. 80% of our students pass the CPA exam).

Anywho—I used the following quote from Mysterio as one of my quizzes:

"Mysterio, ASM #620, p.8 said: 'There's only so long that you can keep a con going before some random variable shows up and ruins everything.' How does this relate to the testing that we as auditors do regarding the internal control aspect of the audit?"

Thanks for helping out with my course.

Ed Lusk, PhD
SUNY: Plattsburgh

And thank you, Ed. That's pretty flattering…though Slott is now asking to be vouchered for the writing assist.

However, now I'm dying to know what the answer is! You gotta spill it!

(Just kidding. I have no idea what that question even means. Accounting sounds boring to me. I can only count to whatever issue number of Spidey this is anyway. So leave me alone, ya math freak!!)

And on that pleasant note, let's all get back to our lives.

Before I go, let me hand out a special thanks to this issue's guest artist Javier Pulido. It's always a treat when he can come by for some Spidey.

Ellie and I will see ya in a couple weeks for more of Spidey and the FF…featuring the return of artist Stefano Caselli!

Viva Japan!
Stephen Wacker
3/17/11

NEXT!

ASMFF!

CARNAGE #4

Send e-mail to
SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM
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